

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1253

By Russell

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Martha M. Cook for her astute service as Monroe County Circuit Court Clerk.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Martha M. Cook, who has evinced the greatest integrity and probity as Monroe County Circuit Court Clerk for the past thirty-six years and will be taking her well-deserved retirement at the end of her current term in office; and

WHEREAS, a native and lifelong resident of Monroe County, Martha M. "Marty" Cook was first elected Circuit Court Clerk in 1986 and has since been reelected an incredible eight times; and

WHEREAS, Marty Cook began her illustrious career with the Monroe County Circuit Court Clerk's Office in 1974 under the newly elected Isaac Stephens and served as a deputy clerk for twelve years before seeking elected office herself; and

WHEREAS, over the course of forty-eight years, Ms. Cook has witnessed many changes in county government, including the growth of her office from four employees to seventeen full-time employees and three part-time workers; and

WHEREAS, under her exemplary leadership, the Circuit Court Clerk's Office was the first office in Monroe County to become computerized and the first office in the 10th Judicial District to notify jurors by text message; and

WHEREAS, a strong believer in training for county officials, Marty Cook earned the designation of Certified Public Administrator from the University of Tennessee Institute for Public Service and is a graduate of the Naifeh Center for Effective Leadership; and

WHEREAS, a trusted leader in her profession, Ms. Cook has been active in the County Officials Association of Tennessee and the Tennessee State Court Clerks' Association (TSCCA), serving the latter organization as president, a member of numerous committees, and a mentor to many new court clerks; and

WHEREAS, often recognized for her good work, she has been honored as East Tennessee Court Clerk of the Year and was named Clerk of the Year in 2010 by TSCCA; and

WHEREAS, for forty-eight years, Marty Cook has treated all people with compassion, respect, and understanding, while gladly assisting citizens with the issues that brought them to circuit court; and

WHEREAS, she humbly credits her employees and colleagues in county and state government for the efficient, effective, knowledgeable, and professional manner in which her office is operated, but Marty Cook is the true shining star of the Monroe County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, and everyone knows it; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Ralph and Lois Stephens McSpadden, Ms. Cook is a graduate of Madisonville High School and Hiwassee College and also attended the University of Tennessee and Cleveland State Community College; and

WHEREAS, she has been a devoted member of First Baptist Church for forty-five years, having taught Sunday School and served on various committees, and volunteers with its Food Ministry; and

WHEREAS, throughout her many successes, Martha M. Cook has been grateful for the love and support of her daughters, Amanda and Megan, and her wonderful son-in-law, Wm. R. Brewer, Jr.; she also has a granddog, AddyJ, and two grandcats, Gray and Murphy; and

WHEREAS, Marty Cook is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and she should be specially recognized on the occasion of her retirement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Martha M. "Marty" Cook for her dedicated and astute service as Monroe County Circuit Court Clerk for thirty-six years and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.